

THE KENNEDY FAMILY

of Pleasant Mount, Wayne County, Pa.

By M. B. Carver.

"Our sturdy forefathers were too busy to leave us much information concerning themselves or their families. They left the work of their axes, their plows, their rifles rather than that of their pens. They recorded their history upon the topography of the county rather than upon the written page and we are compelled to study their work from its results. Every old clearing is a page, while every old farm with its original boundary lines is a whole chapter in the history of this township, upon which our ancestors left the imprint of their lives of toil and hardship. They changed this locality from a howling wilderness to the beautiful country of to-day."

James H. Kennedy, Pleasant Mount, Aug. 17, 1915.

Supt. of Wayne County Schools.

DAVID KENNEDY Senior, our forefather, came into the wilderness of Westmoreland from Tolland County, Connecticut in 1794 and chose the woods of Pleasant Mount for his settlement. With him came his son Robert 22 years old. They made a small clearing, built a log house and that fall went back to Connecticut after the family of the mother and six younger children. He must have been made of the same stuff as his ancestor Elder William Brewster when he led that band of Pilgrims to America in the Mayflower.

He was a man of the true faith, and with the help of God and his good wife, Eunice Lester, he raised a family of seven children, each of whom lived to a ripe old age, owned and cleared and occupied large farms and found their graves in Pleasant Mount Township. Their decendents number over a thousand.

Prof. James Kennedy tells us that he used to have a record of the family but somehow lost track of it. He says the ancestors crossed the English Channel under William the Conqueror, settling later in Scotland, then emigrating to the north of Ireland, thence to New England and our branch to Penn'a.

WILLIAM KENNEDY appears as a clothier at Greenwich, Rhode Island and on April 14th 1724 buys for 125 pounds paid to John Benot of Preston, Conn for land in Voluntown, Conn. Voluntown Land deeds Vol. I page 83, deed recorded 4/21/1724. He then made his home at Preston, Conn where his will was probated Sept. 23, 1727, New London Probate Records C-344, in which he mentions his son David, daughter Agnes Dixon, son John, son Robert, and daughter Jonnet Love, and son Hugh.

ROBERT KENNEDY (WILLIAM) married 1st, Mary Cady of Preston, Conn and later moved to Norwich Conn. The vital records of Norwich give his children with Mary as Agnes b. 1728; Patience 1730; John 1732; Benjamin 1734; Mary 1735. Mary Cady Kennedy died in 1735 and Robert Kennedy married 2nd, Sarah Morgan, a daughter of John Morgan and Ruth Shapely, March 1st 1738-9 and their children are recorded, Ruth 1743; Amie 1745, and David, Aug. 22, 1748. The will of Robert Kennedy dated 1785, from Probate Record at Norwich, "To Sarah Kennedy, widow; Agnes Campbell, dau.; Patience Campbell, dau.; John, son; Mary Tracy, dau.; Ruth Kennedy, dau.; Anna Kennedy, dau.; David Kennedy, son.

DAVID KENNEDY (1748-1827) (Robert 2; William) married at Groton, Conn. Nov. 21, 1771, Eunice Lester, daughter of Peter Lester and Anna Street, bapt, Oct 9, 1748. The will of Peter Lester mentions his daughter Eunice. Their children were born in Connecticut and all except Robert were under age when they came to Pleasant Mount. Eunice Lester died in 1826 Aged 78 years, 1 mo. 22d. and David followed her in 1827 aged 79 years 11 mo. 8 da. Their eight children lived to an average age of 83 years old.